

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)
FINAL MINUTES
May 26, 2004

Best Western Plaza Inn
1110 W. Rex Allen Inn
Wilcox, Arizona

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lamar Smith, Sandee McCullen, Glen Collins, Lorraine Marquez Eiler, Bill Branan, Frances Werner, Peggy Titus, Lee Aitken, Thomas Kelly, Steve Saway, Tina Clark

ABSENT: Mary Dahl, Sanford Cohn, Rick Holloway, Larry Nelson and Richard Hubbard

BLM STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Elaine Zielinski, Carl Rountree, Mike Taylor, Bonnie Winslow, Al Burch, Shela McFarlin, Mike Henderson, Steve Fusilier, Bill Civish, Beau McClure, Roger Taylor, Ron Hooper, Teri Raml, Gregg Simmons, Ken Mahoney, Bill Ruddick, Steve Fusilier, Diane Drobka and Deborah Stevens

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Trevor Hare, Sky Island Alliance; Jim Maynard, Arizona Cattle Growers Association; Pete Brawley, SFO Grazing Permittee and ACG Public Lands Committee Co-Chair (BLM)

AGENDA ITEM: Meeting called to Order. (Frances Werner, RAC Chairperson)
Welcome and Introduction of RAC Members.

DISCUSSION: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on May 26, 2004, at the Best Western Plaza Inn, where the meeting was held. Frances thanked everyone for attending. Greetings and introductions were then made around the room.

AGENDA ITEM: Review February 18, 2004, meeting minutes.

DISCUSSION: Frances Werner made the motion to approve the Minutes; Steve Saway seconded the motion.

ACTION: Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: BLM State Director's Introduction, Update on Legislation, Regulations, and other Statewide Issues. (Elaine Zielinski, BLM Arizona State Director and other BLM staff.)

DISCUSSION: Fire Situation: The fire danger across much of the Interior West, including Arizona, is expected to be above normal. Fire season has begun in parts of California, Montana and Idaho, and Arizona has had two large fires. The continuing long-term drought and significant vegetative stress and dieback due to insect damage will continue to challenge even seasoned firefighters. Extreme fire behavior can be expected and firefighter and public safety will be a major concern this summer.

BLM Arizona is in the process of hiring firefighters for this season, and the number of firefighters and equipment for the 2004 fires season will be roughly the same as 2003. Agencies within the Southwest Geographic Area, including the BLM will provide assistance to each other during wildland fires. This interagency cooperation is critical to the success of all agencies and our wildfire firefighting suppression capabilities.

Airtanker Restrictions: On May 10, the Forest Service and Department of the Interior announced they are terminating the contract for 33 large airtankers due to concerns over airworthiness of the aircraft and public safety. The large fixed-wing airtankers are used in wildland firefighting primarily for initial attack and structure protection support.

The decision comes in response to findings and recommendations by the 2004 National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) report on three previous airtanker accidents. One of the NTSB findings states “it was apparent that no effective mechanism currently exists to ensure the continuing airworthiness of these firefighting aircraft.” The NTSB report also concluded that the Forest Service and the DOI were responsible for ensuring the safety of firefighting aircraft. Private companies operate the 33 airtankers under a contract with the federal agencies during fire season.

Most of the large airtankers were designed and used for military operations before their acquisition by contract companies. The NTSB report indicated that a complete history of maintenance and inspection records is not available for many of them, and the lack of documentation makes it impossible to guarantee their airworthiness. The average age of these airtankers is 48 years with some more than 60 years old.

The inability to use these airtankers will have significant impacts on how BLM and other federal agencies will fight wildland fires, especially in forested areas.

Klump Update: On May 11, Luther Wallace Klump petitioned the court for release, stating he will remove his cows from the Simmons Peak allotment. He also withdrew his second amendment rights as mandated. In return, he asked that BLM withdraw all charges.

Judge Roll released Wally from confinement, since he had complied with the contempt citation and ordered another hearing in five weeks to hear the settlement issue. The court date is to be determined.

In the interim, the BLM will schedule a flight to conduct a compliance check, and make sure Klump has removed all of his cows from the Simmons Peak and Badger Den allotments. Within a couple of weeks, the U.S. Attorney’s Office will forward a draft settlement to BLM for review.

Military Affairs Commission: BLM Arizona has been supportive of Governor Napolitano’s initiative to protect and ensure the long-term retention of Arizona’s premier military facilities. BLM participated in the public meeting process, involving the Military Facilities Task Force and provided comments on the draft report recommendations. BLM also anticipates an ongoing relationship with the newly created permanent Military Affairs Commission. The Commission is charged with monitoring developments regarding Arizona’s military installations and to make recommendations on executive, legislative and federal actions necessary to sustain and grow those installations.

Under the guidance of the Commission, BLM will participate with the State of Arizona, Department of Defense, United States Air Force, United States Army Corp of Engineers, and the private sector, as they work toward the goals of the Governor’s initiative.

Anniversary of Antiquities Act Update: In your packages, you’ll find an update on the 100th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act plan for next year. It includes an outline of the Goals of the Celebration, Guiding Principles, Potential Projects, Events and Products, and Funding Strategy. I’ll keep you posted on how the RAC can get involved in some of the on-the-ground projects in Arizona.

BLM National Land Tenure Management Strategy: The BLM Washington office is currently developing a National Land Tenure Management Strategy. The draft Strategy was provided to the

Executive Leadership Team (ELT) during their March meeting. They were asked to review and comment on the document. The policy for the land tenure management program is: 1) enhance multiple use management; 2) provide access to public lands; 3) protect public land and significant resource values, and 4) meet state and local government and local community needs. The objectives of the land ownership adjustment program are: 1) retain public lands that enhance multiple-use and protect significant resource values; 2) dispose of lands to support local community and development needs; 3) dispose or transfer land and mineral estates that are difficult or uneconomic to manage, and 4) acquire lands to complement existing resource values.

In general, the Strategy states that the preferred method of disposing of land is under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (BACA Bill); it develops strict criteria for LWCF acquisitions, and de-emphasizes the use of land exchanges except in making ownership adjustments with state governments. The Strategy also directs each State Director to prepare a Land Tenure Management Strategy to guide priority disposal and acquisition activities for lands under their jurisdiction. BLM Arizona started developing the Arizona Strategy last October, the draft Arizona plan has been distributed to the State Leadership Team for review and comment.

National RAC Chair: All of the RAC chairs convened in Phoenix for their annual meeting with Director Clarke and several members of the Executive Leadership, field managers and program specialists. It was a very successful meeting, and I'd like to thank Frances Werner for her participation in planning the agenda and providing Arizona's RAC perspectives. She will be providing you with a meeting update this afternoon.

Director Clarke's Visits to Arizona: In April and May, BLM Arizona conducted two successful field visits for Director Clarke. The trip in April included meetings with two *Arizona Republic* Editorial Board writers, Governor Napolitano, community partners involved in the Ironwood Forest National Monument planning effort, Border Patrol staff, Friends of the San Pedro volunteers, and the Upper San Pedro Partnership, Luke Air Force Base General Breedlove, and members of the Barry M. Goldwater Range Executive Council (BEC). It also included tours of Ironwood Forest National Monument, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, and the Luke Air Force Base.

During her visit, Director Clarke presented a Four C's Award to the BEC for their dedication to consultation, cooperation, and communication – all in the service of conservation for the Barry M. Goldwater Range, and the adjacent public land resources. She also presented Take Pride in America awards to three volunteers with the Friends of the San Pedro River.

Also, while she was in Phoenix for the National RAC Chair meeting, she met with BLM employees from the Arizona State and Phoenix Field Office to present awards to the BLM employees who participate in the BEC, including Mike Taylor, Gail Acheson, Teri Raml and Gene Dahlem.

She also recognized several employees for their innovations to management, performance and public service.

Upcoming Hill Briefings: I will be going to Washington, D.C. the week of June 21, to meet with the Arizona Congressional Delegation and their staffs on a variety of BLM issues.

Advisory Councils: The call for nominations to the Arizona RAC closed on April 19, 2004. Five positions are open for nominations, two in Commodities, two in Non-Commodities, and one in the Local Area Interest. BLM has received approximately 10 applications for these positions. Deborah Stevens

will be providing the nomination information to the State Leadership Team for consideration in the next few weeks.

Organizational Effectiveness: State Director asked Associate State Director Carl Rountree to cover this topic.

DISCUSSION: BLM Arizona is looking ahead to keep in tune with upcoming needs and to be better prepared for a changing work environment. Through this organizational effectiveness, there will be a new level called a District that will cover a broader geographic scope.

Principles and Guidelines:

- Keep decisions closer to the ground.
- Consistency in decisions but not “one size fits all”
- Get more money on the ground given the current and future budget situation
- More sharing of positions across geographic boundaries
- Make more internal opportunities for gaining experience. (80% of managers in BLM are eligible for retirement in next five years. In workforce, 45-55% eligible to retire in next five years)
- Very inclusive process with employees. Proposals on the table that BLM is moving forward with; Carl will explain in detail.
- No forced moves.
- Nobody losing jobs.
- Field Managers will have same delegation and interaction with communities.
- Consider social and economic impacts to communities
- Implement fully over 3-5 year period; taken care of regionally as opportunities exist
- District will have 8-11 people

Carl Rountree showed the RAC a map of the proposed District boundaries (See Organizational Effectiveness Handout and Proposed District Maps)

New Districts:

Lake Havasu Field Office, Yuma Field Office, and Kingman Field Office combining to form either Colorado River District or Arizona Rivers District

Arizona Strip will have three Field Offices with the Monuments each separated

Phoenix District would have north and south Field Offices.

Safford and Tucson would combine; District office either in Safford, Tucson or Sierra Vista.

Field Managers would go down to GS-13s and District Managers would be GS-14s.

Currently looking at Budget and Public Affairs positions to move from Field Offices to District Offices. Positions identified as “new” may not actually be new, but could be moved from another job. Hope to retain same numbers or decrease. Adding greater consistency

Sandee: When will implementation begin?

Elaine: For West Side, implement within six months. Goal is to have better service to constituents and keep decisions closer to the ground. It shouldn't be a big deal. Most of impact will be on management level. Employees should not be affected except for increased zoning. Savings from management level can be used to hire field personnel. Monitoring of the success of the restructuring is essential; this is on ongoing process.

Tina: Will existing facilities remain?

Elaine: No offices will close, existing facilities are adequate.

Glen: Major step in the right direction. Loss of third tier years ago eliminated career paths. New District Offices will provide those opportunities. It builds in a national resource leadership ladder to train future managers.

Frances: Absolutely logical to go back to Colorado River District since it has common problems.

Steve: Comments on Zone positions. In Coronado NF, recreation position was zoned and the public lost a lot of service, so be very careful what you zone. We need to keep BLM's presence and visibility in the communities where offices are located.

Pete Brawley: Does "existing facilities" mean that same people will stay there?

Carl: Yes

Frances: It's important to have north and south Phoenix Field Offices.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Update on the Borderland Task Force and Border Issues (Beau McClure, BLM Special Assistant to the State Director)

DISCUSSION: McClure made a Powerpoint presentation on Border Issues, illustrating the major impacts from increased undocumented immigrants (UDIs) and human and drug trafficker along Arizona-Mexico border. He discussed development of Coordinated Plan and upcoming outreach by Southwest Strategy (SWS), Regional Executive Council to the Office of Management and Budget, Administration, and Congress.

Steve: Will there be money for cleanups?

Beau: The Plan asked for money to cleanup, but the exact dollars cannot be discussed until approved by the Administration.

Sandee McCullen: Thanks for sending information. Will there be increased efforts to stop border crossing?

Beau McClure: This Plan does not address immigration policy; it just discusses impacts. Immigration policy is beyond the scope of the committee; Congress is discussing the issue.

Elaine Zielinski: The Arizona Border Control initiative is resulting in increased Border Patrol presence, new hiring.

Sandee McCullen: The increase communications between all agencies involved, has progress been made?

Beau McClure: BLM is working on 24/7 dispatch center and developing a Communication Guide for all law enforcement officials in southern Arizona. SWS will provide funding to print and distribute. Also developing pocket guide so that they have immediate access to phone numbers to call

Lorraine Eiler: Will the Border Patrol be setting up camps?

Beau McClure: The Border Patrol has set up two camps in Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Border Patrol is stationed in desert in modular homes to provide quick response to reports of smugglers (drugs and people) and UDIs coming through the desert. Two drone surveillance planes will also assist in identifying large groups. Helicopters are also being used by the Border Patrol.

Frances Werner: There are concerns about roads being put into wilderness areas.

Beau McClure: Cabeza Prieta NWF is 95% wilderness. Roger DeRosa (Refuge Manager) is considering roads in wilderness as an option to trying to save the wilderness values by preventing the resource damage.

Glen Collins: Surprised that wheeled game carriers were not allowed in wilderness; now roads will be developed?

Beau McClure and Elaine Zielinski: This is a critical situation; times have changed.

Glen Collins: Perhaps this situation will result in national policy changes.

Lorraine Eiler: Lots of trails on BLM lands are being used as roads. In Cabeza Prieta, there are so many trails everywhere.

Beau McClure: There were a few cherry-stemmed roads in the wilderness when it was designated; now there are hundreds.

Frances Werner: Senator Kyl did a helicopter tour last fall and it was very eye-opening for him.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Citizen Wilderness Proposals and current land use planning efforts (Ken Mahoney, BLM Wilderness Specialist and NLCS Coordinator)

DISCUSSION: Ken summarized current BLM wilderness planning efforts. Wilderness and transportation were two of the most discussed issues in the planning efforts. Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) submitted formal proposals to the BLM (azwild.org website has some of them posted) for new wilderness areas. Ken discussed map showing the AWC's proposed designations.

BLM assesses these proposals as part of its overall review of public comments for these planning efforts: Does it provide new information? How does it measure up to what we need in the LUP?

Settlement of lawsuit in Utah; BLM doesn't designation WSAs as a result and cannot use impairment criteria and WSA management in areas not officially designated as WSAs.

In the assessment/inventory stage, BLM has a form that addresses the major wilderness characteristics and how well they are addressed in the proposal or if there are areas that the BLM needs to visit on the ground to verify wilderness values:

- Naturalness
- Outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation
- Outstanding opportunity for solitude

Once BLM confirms wilderness characteristics are present, they must identify ways to ensure that those values are protected through the planning process.

- What is the condition? What is the uniqueness?
- What is the need to preserve or protect these areas? What is the risk if they are not protected?
- Are they practical to manage? Can we really protect them?

Land use allocations. Planning alternatives will review wilderness as an option. Prescriptions would be included to lay out specific ways to protect these areas; these will be synergistic with other recommendations, such as OHV designation, commercial plant harvesting, sand and gravel sales, etc. Many management prescriptions are already in place through the Monument designations.

Range of alternatives would range from none (no wilderness designations) to having many new wilderness areas designated.

Steve: Even though BLM cannot designate WSAs, can the planning efforts manage for wilderness characteristics?

Ken: Management prescriptions would allocate resource uses but it would not be an official designation. They would be thus protected throughout the life of the plan. Plan would identify types of uses and restrictions necessary for protection, such as VRM designations. Route designations would also be used. Even if there are existing trails, the BLM could restrict competitive events, such as mountain bike races, that could impair wilderness values.

Steve: Then citizens could encourage their congressmen to designate the areas as wilderness later, right?

Ken: Yes, only Congress can designate official WSAs and Wilderness.

Thomas: Is the BLM trying to make a wilderness?

Ken: No, we are just saying there are wilderness characteristics there and that it is important to manage them throughout the life of the plan. It could be looked at as a stepping stone to congressional designation, but the BLM is not proposing them as such. We are just protecting the future opportunity for designation as part of our multiple use mandate.

Thomas: Is this a way of sidestepping Congress to manage as wilderness without official designation?

Ken: We don't look at it as such; we are just managing them to protect those values.

Mike: We are not sidestepping Congress. We have specific guidance. We have a planning process that must evaluate and make recommendations. We would look at the management prescription for wilderness values the same as we would look at management prescriptions for grazing allotments.

Thomas: If it is managed as a wilderness, and you are not allowed to drive in it, you are *de facto* making a wilderness.

Mike: The decision to restrict OHV use would not be based on a protection of resource values such as a protected plant or the wilderness values.

Ken: Wilderness Act has specific prohibitions on what is applied to a wilderness area, such as landing of aircraft, mechanical transport. None of our prescriptions would restrict landing of aircraft; that is important to our interagency cooperation such as Game and Fish wildlife monitoring.

Lee: Maps on wall – where did they come from?

Ken: BLM requested AWC files electronically and our map shop imported them into BLM map files.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: General Land Use Planning Process Presentation & Short Overview of Las Cienegas and Agua Fria/Bradshaw-Harquahala (Gregg Simmons, BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Shela McFarlin, BLM Tucson Field Manager, and Teri Raml, BLM Phoenix Field Manager)

DISCUSSION: Gregg Simmons provided a PowerPoint presentation of BLM land management planning process. (PowerPoint is available for public review.)

Sandee: Requested that Gregg do presentation for state OHV association.

Gregg: Yes, can do this presentation or other versions.

Deb: Can also email powerpoint to RAC members.

Pete: ACEC question

Gregg: BLM has about 50 ACECs in Arizona

Pete: If the plan is going to affect management in a specific area, how do we get early input to the plan before the draft comes out.

Gregg: BLM has gone above and beyond to encourage public input throughout the process. The public can contact planning coordinators in each field office. E-planning will soon be available. The BLM AZ website also has all the planning efforts posted.

Pete: How much importance would you put on an EIS that was done 25-30 years ago?

Gregg: These are going to be complete standalone documents. If any EIS is still applicable, it will be evaluated and, if pertinent, incorporated into the new LUP.

Shela: Implementation of the Las Cienegas NCA Plan. The plan is a living document and will be updated as needed. Las Cienegas was selected as a pilot; Steve Cohn worked part-time on the project. BLM has provided funding. Shela discussed her handout of the Las Cienegas NCA Annual Workplan and Funding Summary for FY04.

Las Cienegas Plan has streamlined the NEPA process by evaluating many of the on-the-ground projects.

Obstacles to implementation:

Our lands are under attack because of UDI impacts.

Opportunities:

Grant funding through partnerships.

Teri Raml: North Phoenix Planning Effort

Very collaborative approach being taken. Many community workshops.

Working with contractor. Extensive public input has slowed the process.

Ran short of funds and had to terminate contract with Jones and Stokes.

Now PFO has to finish the plan and hopes to finish in October.

Trying to make as many implementation decisions as possible which also takes time.

Started working with James Kent Associates.

Bradshaw Foothills group has been heavily involved. Sandee and Peggy have been very active.

PFO now producing quarterly report showing what all activities the Field Office is involved with.

Originally sent to elected officials and cooperators. Would like RAC input and comments from FMs.

Mike: The BLM has gone the extra mile to encourage collaboration on all our planning efforts and are looking for to increased public involvement.

Frances: Director Clarke commented that adding 1-2 extra years to the planning process can greatly shorten the protest and appeal period after the plan is released.

Peggy: Really like the increased opportunity for input.

Sandee: The Middle Gila Conservation Partnership is another whole philosophy of collaboration.

ACTION: No action required, except to e-mail Land Use Planning PowerPoint to RAC members.

(Lunch Break)

AGENDA ITEM: Arizona Statewide Fire Plan Amendment (Gregg Simmons, BLM Planning and Environmental Coordinator)

DISCUSSION: The BLM only got seven comments letters and it doesn't appear to be controversial. We are now proceeding with completion of the plan. Another example on collaborative planning efforts. Copies of the plan are available in all BLM Arizona Field offices.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Land Tenure Adjustment Process – focusing on Land Exchanges and Land Disposals (Bill Ruddick, Arizona Land Exchange Coordinator)

DISCUSSION: Bill Ruddick's presentation focused on Land Exchanges and Land Disposals.

Handed out draft plan

1st phase: Land Tenure

2nd phase: Use Authorization

Exchange Program was developed in mid 90s to have better overall statewide management: Statewide Land Exchange Steering Committee comprised on Field Managers and two Deputy State Directors. Bill reviews proposals then they are forwarded to the Committee. If they approve, then it goes to State Director for approval. It is then signed and submitted to the BLM WO for review and approval. Once it is approved, it goes back to the field for a feasibility review which must be approved, then must be approved again before implementation.

Dos Pobres-San Juan Project – 17,000 acres of public lands outside Safford would be exchanged for about 4,000 acres of Phelps Dodge land. If plan is approved, will also result in first new open pit copper mine in U.S. in 25 years.

Another exchange proposed on the Arizona Strip.

Another with Asarco.

“Baca Bill” allows BLM to sell public lands at auction and capture those dollars to purchase inholdings in other designated areas. No more than 20% of dollars can be used for overhead such as NEPA reports, appraisals, inventories, etc. 80% must be used for actual purchase. Lands purchases can be inholdings within BLM, NPS, USFS, or FWS lands. BLM will receive 60%, FS 20%, FWS and NPS 10% each.

It sets up a Facilitation Council that has to approve acquisitions.

National Strategy being developed that will probably deemphasize land exchanges. This puts lands up for disposal into a competitive bidding process. In Las Vegas, they are getting 2-3 times appraised value for the parcels. Bidding process would start at appraised value.

Draft Arizona Strategy would expand Steering Committee to include them in LWCF decision oversight.

Tina: Who does the appraisals, private or federal?

Bill: BLM uses a combination of private appraisals and review by DOI Office of Appraisal Services (OAS).

Glen: Overall it sounds good and decisions would be defensible. But, people that have lands that they know the BLM wants will use it as a lever to get developable land without competition. The land that BLM gets will never have the price tested in the public market. The person that acquires the federal lands will multiply the value once they purchase it. The only thing that the BLM can do is ensure that the price they get has been tested in the market.

Stop talking about land exchanges. People are already buying options on land around Luke. Be prepared for black eyes on the Luke AFB issue.

Steve: Military affairs commission...would that force the BLM into acquiring lands that they don't really want?

Glen: A whole bag of problems for BLM. Either you end up with agricultural land or developable land. There used to be a BLM policy stating that DOI would not use BLM land sales to acquire private lands needed for military programs.

Bill: The Corps of Engineers is buying parcels at the ends of military runways. Original easements restricted height of developments; new easements or purchases would remove other uses.

Glen: Need to let the public know what BLM is proposing for exchange. Select lands with roughly equal values and see what the public says. Don't wait for Congress or developers.

Elaine: We are basically doing that; identifying existing plans with areas for retention and disposal.

Phoenix has received a lot of input from the public already. We may only be waiting for days/weeks/months for Congress to act.

Mike: We are providing the congressional delegation with information so that they can make intelligent decisions on the potential impacts of each parcel.

Bill: Military affairs committee has sunset; Bill attended their meetings. Unfortunately many lands were sold in areas near the runways and flight corridors. Then developers want the military shut down from using the areas.

Bill: We would have to do a Plan amendment.

Frances: Meeting with Pima County regarding monies to buy conservation easements. Lands within Tucson Mountain Park are R&PP; some felt that conservation easements were needed for those in case the lands ever returned to BLM.

Jim: Similar problems with ag lands in Mesilla valley. Las Cruces office using land sales to have money to buy easements on ag lands to present development.

Frances: CO and NM are light years ahead of AZ in conservation easements.

Glen: Military should use money to buy conservation easements.

Bill: They are spending \$3 million to buy fee lands around bomb dumps; they are using other money for conservation easements.

Elaine: Only lands currently identified for disposal can be used as part of the Baca Bill. Bill: Baca sunsets in 2010. It's not just Luke. It's also Davis-Monthan, Ft. Huachuca, and ancillary facilities such as Marana and Barry Goldwater.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: BLM Field Managers Field Office Rangeland Resource Team Member Proposals

DISCUSSION: BLM Tucson Field Manager Shela McFarlin said the Tucson RRT excludes Las Cienegas. She wants to expand RRT from six to nine members. Want more recreational representation. She also wants to replace several members and presented biographical information on new members. (See handout).

RRT training session currently set up for Las Cienegas RRT. RAC will also be having training so perhaps members could attend that.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: RAC Questions on Field Manager Reports (reports are attached at the end of the minutes)

DISCUSSION: Mike Taylor presented the Field Manager's Report for Kingman: Construction of new KFO office is continuing. Move-in expected in August. 2755 Mission Blvd. will be the new address.

Roger Taylor: California Condors nesting at Vermilion Cliffs hatched a chick and parents are feeding it. Hope to see it fledge. Another pair hatched an egg. Last year's fledging is doing fine and parents are feeding it. Population is now 55.

Steve Saway asked Tucson Field Manager Shela McFarlin about addressing growth and development in the proposed LUP. Shela said that concerns are being discussed regarding Sierra Vista's proposal for surface water reservoirs.

Frances said that Bill is not here this afternoon because he is on the Zoning Board that is voting today on the Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan. Mary is not here because she is also involved as the County Planning Director.

Frances: Recreational shooting opportunities in the Tucson Basin. Conflict Resolution Center hosted public meeting last week that was attended by more than 250 people. BLM, FS, SLD, County and AGFD are coordinating through the CRC. There is public distrust and antagonism to FS for closing Tucson gun range and Tonto NF for closing a large area. (Lots of compliments on BLM litter bags.) Numerous breakout sessions were held. Two different concepts: developed ranges and open places safe to go for open shooting.

Shela: Lots of good ideas developed in breakout sessions. Need to overcome distrust issue related to FS.

Frances: Earth First! Its headquarters are back in Tucson; they favor limited use of public lands and will be lobbying for protection.

Shela: Steve Gobat is state BLM lead for recreational shooting issues.

Mike: Process initially started in Phoenix area due to Tonto NF closures. Workshops were held and are continuing. Tucson is following a similar path.

Lee: Recreational uncontrolled shooting is going to go away due to urban growth. Development of more organized ranges in appropriate areas is in everyone's best interest. Need at least ten developed sites in Arizona.

Sandee: Between now and then, there need to be safe designated sites out on the desert.

Teri: Was the organization Good Gun Foundation involved?

Shela: Yes.

Teri: They were involved in Table Mesa cleanup.

Frances: Their headquarters are in Prescott.

Sandee: They are a statewide organization though.

Glen: Back in the 1920-30s, there were a bunch of rifle ranges set aside for the National Guard. Those are still there, contaminated with lead shot. Others have never been used. Need to go back and revisit those. (Douglas, Buckeye, White Tanks)

Frances: Appointed Glen to dig out more information about these sites.

Bill Civish: The shooting range in Douglas, the NG doesn't want it anymore. NG wants the City of Douglas to have it. But if it's an R&PP, then it could revert to BLM with potential cleanup costs. The NG is working with Kolbe's office to see if Congress can just transfer the land to the City.

Pete: With more people in the country, it's more and more of a problem. Bottles and cans are hung in trees or on fence posts to be shot. It's easy for ranchers to get hurt.

Lamar: Regarding the Phoenix Field Office report, he has heard people concerned about BLM's intent to convert grazing allotments to ephemeral. What is your involvement with TNC?

Teri: TNC is conducting a literature review for PFO regarding the impacts of grazing in Sonoran desert.

Bill: TNC is working with the BLM on Rx fires on the Muleshoe and how long burned areas need to be rested.

Mike: TNC will not be making decisions for the BLM.

Teri: PFO is faced with grazing decisions on the South planning areas. PFO is trying to build a database of literature already published. It will be shared with the RAC.

Lamar: We could probably provide input to that.

Thomas: TNC has a bias. There should be others also collecting data.

Lamar: The big problem now, the big buzzword is "good science" but the fact of the matter is that good science seldom solves your problem on a specific piece of ground.

You can make research say anything you want it to, depending on the situation. Once something is in the literature, then it is cited as science. Many years ago, BLM and the University hosted the Hot Desert Symposium; turned out that there really wasn't that much research done.

Peggy: Back to LUP for PFO, where are you in the process? It says that it is being reviewed by the State Office. RAC members want to be involved in SD briefings.

Mike: Internal process of reviewing the draft. It mainly reviewing format and typing. The Arizona State office briefing has not occurred, but RAC will be invited.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Report from the Standards & Guidelines Working Group (Lamar Smith, Chair)

DISCUSSION: Lamar Smith said the S&G working group met yesterday to discuss process for evaluating rangeland health. There was concern that conclusions drawn didn't follow through from the data. Decision made was not justified by the field assessment. Both BLM people and RAC people felt that this process needs to be reemphasized as it relates to Standards for Rangeland Health. Don't say a decision is based on rangeland health when it is actually based on something else. Urged the BLM to review this subject. Next S&G meeting, the BLM would provide a review.

Glen: Emphasize that the RAC believes in the S&G process. In one situation, RAC was comfortable with the data and decisions, but that it was not just that data that affected the decision.

Mike: Noted that Lamar has been defending the BLM AZ process and wants to ensure that the original process continues.

Lamar: New training sessions for RAC members not accomplishing what they are intended to do. Would it be beneficial to have some written materials to review as part of RAC orientation?

Deb: Orientation does have documents related to S&Gs and LUPs.

Sandee: Went to initial training, read the materials, have been member for three years, and the information is just now beginning to sink in. Having one training is not enough; perhaps more is needed.

Lamar: In some states, when RAC approved S&Gs, they distanced themselves from it whereas in Arizona, RAC continues to stay involved. Turnover in the RAC and the SLT is also an issue.

Lee: Involved with Ironwood Forest National Monument working group. The protocol for management will be the S&G.

Mike: For next RAC meeting, we can report back to the group.

Elaine: We don't want to lose momentum and continuity.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: RAC Discussion on Public Relations Working Group (Steve Saway, Chair)

DISCUSSION: Steve Saway gave a **RAC Notes** update, saying he will prepare the quarterly newsletter for August and forward it to Deborah to be posted to the RAC homepage.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Report from Recreation Working Group (Tina Clark, Chair)

DISCUSSION: Tina reported that the Recreation/Tourism Committee met during lunch. Two things presented that were very interesting: possible work on recreational site development and looking at recreational shooting. Next meeting, they will meet with Don Applegate the day before the RAC meeting to provide direction on how best the RAC can be involved. She will let RAC know when and where they will meet with Don.

Deb: Next meeting will be at the National Training Center.

Tina: Tourism – how do we define recreation and tourism and its involvement with the BLM? Also, how do we address safety issues, especially for foreign tourists.

Frances: At RAC national meeting, there were copies of national strategic plan for recreation and tourism. Deb has requested copies and will provide to RAC.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Report from Wild Horse and Burro Working Group (Frances Werner, Chair)

DISCUSSION: Lee: Asked Frances what she carried forward to national committee regarding WH&B. The RAC's letter was presented to Elaine and others, and got positive responses. It was not included on the national RAC agenda because there were too many topics, but it should be included next time. Frances opted not to present information directly to the Director; would rather send up the chain of command.

Lee: Emergence of a new national horse and burro foundation/task force.

Al Burch: MOU has been signed between BLM and WH&B Foundation but we have not received a copy. Two press releases, May 17 in packet, and May 20, not in packet, is similar but with website information.

Elaine: It was discussed at a previous ELT meeting; Elaine wanted to make sure that burros had equal footing as horses through parity in the MOU.

Al handed out a summary of FY2004 accomplishments in the WH&B program. WH&B program was cut this past year. Even though our plan called for removal of 300-400 animals, we only removed 190 animals due to budget shortfalls. Asked Congress to reallocate money from other BLM programs into the WH&B program; there should be a decision within the next week. BLM AZ looked at strategies both with and without the extra money. Arizona would receive \$285,000 but has the directive of removing an additional 512 animals and feeding them while in holding for adoption. Current monies would have to be used for the adoptions. The states with higher level adoption rates would be asked to make sure that animals are adopted.

Thomas asked about the new Kingman facility. Al said that we are already on track to construct a new facility, FY04 is the design phase; construction in FY05.

Congress was asked to reprogram money from other resource programs to WH&B programs. That should carry through to next year's request. BLM would have \$40 million instead of \$29 million for national WH&B program.

Chuck Lane from X Bar Ranch represents Arizona on WH&B task force.

Pete: The Public Lands Council, one of the main concerns during the drought is the impacts of wild burros, i.e. ranchers being asked to remove livestock while burros remain on the range. FYI, Chuck Lane has decided not to be on WH&B task force; Emmett Sturgeon will replace Chuck. They are just beginning to organize to facilitate quicker adoptions and be proponents for the budget.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Report from Land Use Planning and Tenure Working Group (Mary Dahl, Chair)

DISCUSSION: Glen said the Land Use Planning working group did not have a report this time.

ACTION: The Draft Resource Management Plans for Agua Fria/Bradshaw-Harquahala and the Arizona Strip lands will be discussed in detail at the August 18, 2004 working group meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Report from the Off-Highway Vehicle Use Working Group (Sandee McCullen, chair)

DISCUSSION: Sandee gave the OHV Working Group report and discussed the Adopt-a-Trail Program—Bill Gibson and Marge Dwyer have worked with committee. Template almost done and Bill will present at next RAC meeting.

OHV subgroup just separated from the recreation group; need some specific OHV guidelines. Asked for Elaine's opinion. Mike envisions something like the S&Gs but related to OHV use. Elaine suggested that the BLM could compile information on what has been done in other states for her subcommittee.

Frances: Could provide Don Charpio information.

Steve: Is this part of the toolbox that was originally discussed?

Sandee: OHV Strategy was presented but we haven't heard a thing about it since.

Glen: Two workshops held for route evaluation process for Middle Gila Conservation Partnership (MGCP).

Sandee: NPS or FS and BLM have contributed money to efforts.

ACTION: N/A

AGENDA ITEM: BLM NATIONAL RAC CHAIRS MEETING SUMMARY (Frances Werner, RAC Chair)

DISCUSSION: Frances said the National RAC Chairs meeting minutes are still being assembled; will be available eventually.

Frances acknowledged Deb's efforts to ensure that RAC meetings are advertised in the Federal Register. Some areas are apparently having problems with getting theirs published.

Frances reported that it was an intense meeting. There was great disappointment that the Working Landscapes initiative has been put on the back burner. According to Jim Hughes, Deputy Director, it is not going to be addressed due to other issues. What the RACs did is archived now.

Sage Grouse is proposed for listing. Jesse Juen is coauthoring BLM strategy detailing how listing would impact BLM management. Highest priority problems are oil and gas leasing and coalbed methane production, both of which are not present in Arizona.

In Montana, when WSAs were abolished, environmental groups came forward with proposals for hundreds of ACECs to be addressed in the LUPs..

There were discussions about damage caused by OHV uses and combining this with damage from wildfires and drought.

RS 2477 – Jim Hughes presented a test case in Utah (Juab) that the state or county could have a road through a wilderness. Apparently they had picked the wrong case because it was already a DOI designated road. Now they have to find another test case.

There was a lengthy discussion at the Chairs meeting regarding conflict of interest. It is a very complex issue. Eventually, there will be clarification from the Washington Office

Kathleen Clarke feels very strongly that the RACs are a very important link between BLM managers and the public. The current administration has agreed to fully fund the program. The national RAC meeting cost about \$60,000 mostly due to transportation.

Wyoming still does not have a RAC. Governor is now talking to Kathleen Clarke.

ACTION: Frances will be asking the RAC to provide ideas and recommendations for “Best Management Practices” to forward to Director Clarke at her request.

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion on Future Meetings/Locations (BLM State Director and RAC Members)

DISCUSSION: The next RAC meeting will be August 18, at National Training Center.

ACTION: Frances asked for agenda items. At a meeting FY 05, Frances asked if BLM could invite Peter Ffolliott who is on BLM Science Commission to speak to the RAC.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

(Attachment 1)

Arizona Strip Field Manager Report

1. SUBJECT: Arizona Strip’s fire management area wins prestigious award

ISSUE SUMMARY: The Color Country Fire Management Area, which includes the Arizona Strip Field Office, will soon receive the Golden Pulaski Award from the National Interagency Fire Center. This prestigious award is a traveling award that is only given once each year. Color Country received this award for its outstanding interagency cooperation and coordination. The fire management area

encompasses 14 million acres of federal, state and reservation lands in southern Utah and northern Arizona. This includes lands administered by five ranger districts of the Dixie National Forest, three Bureau of Land Management field offices, two national parks and five national monuments (NPS and BLM), Utah state lands, Arizona State Trust Land, and the Shivwits and Kaibab Paiute Indian reservations. It covers five counties in Utah and two in Arizona. The South Zone of this area is based in St. George and is comprised largely of Arizona Strip BLM personnel and equipment.

2. SUBJECT: California condors nesting in the Vermilion Cliffs

ISSUE SUMMARY: A pair of California condors has been incubating an egg for more than a month in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. The egg, if viable, is expected to hatch any day. This pair is one of two nesting in Arizona this year. Another pair is nesting in the Grand Canyon and has a similar due date. Both pairs are nesting in caves in cliffs very difficult for humans to reach. The pair that nested last year in the Grand Canyon did not nest this year. Instead they continue to feed and care for their chick, which is now making flights several miles from its nest site. There are currently 51 condors in Arizona.

3. SUBJECT: Arizona Strip hosts Statewide Archaeology/Cultural Resources meeting

ISSUE SUMMARY: The Arizona Strip Field Office hosted the annual Statewide Archaeology/Cultural Resources meeting April 13-15. BLM cultural resource specialists from throughout the state toured parts of the Arizona Strip. Many had never been to the Strip before and expressed amazement at the remoteness of the area and at the number of undisturbed cultural sites remaining.

4. SUBJECT: Draft EIS for Arizona Strip planning effort due this fall

ISSUE SUMMARY: Planners and resource specialists on the Arizona Strip are busy developing the preferred alternative and environmental consequences for the draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Arizona Strip planning effort. Land-use plans for the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, and 1.7 million acres of public domain lands on the Strip are included in this effort. The draft EIS will be published this fall.

Phoenix Field Manager Report

Need to get information from BLM Phoenix Field Manager Teri Raml

Kingman Field Manager Report

1. Subject: New BLM Building, Kingman Field Office

Issue Summary/Update: Construction of the new Kingman BLM Field Office continues and is on schedule. BLM plans to officially accept the new building in late June and physically move in during the first week of August, 2004. The new building will feature improved security and customer service. KFOs new address will be 2755 Mission Boulevard.

Tucson Field Manager Report

1. SUBJECT: BLM Draft Report to Congress (Measures for protecting lands north of the Sonoita Valley Acquisition District, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area).

ISSUE SUMMARY: This Report to Congress [(H.R. 2941 (PL 106-538), signed on December 6, 2000] was requested within the legislative language that created Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. The

requirement evolved during the legislative process for LCNCA when landowners, organizations, Pima County, and the Arizona State Land Department raised concerns about how these lands would be protected and managed. These lands connect the northern boundary of the SVAPD with Saguaro National Park, Coronado National Forest's Rincon Wilderness, and Pima County's Colossal Cave Park and Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, hence the name "Missing Link." The BLM Tucson Field Office has completed the Draft Report, and it has been provided to the AZ State Office for referral to BLM Washington Office.

2. SUBJECT: Section 321 of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act

ISSUE SUMMARY: Sec. 321 of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act recognizes the Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP), Ariz., a partnership including Fort Huachuca, Ariz., other federal, state, and local government and non-government entities, and its efforts to establish a collaborative water-use management program in the Sierra Vista sub-watershed, Ariz., to achieve the sustainable yield of the regional aquifer, so as to protect the Upper San Pedro River, Ariz., and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA). The act requires that, "The Secretary of the Interior shall prepare, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Defense, and in cooperation with the other members of the partnership, a report on the water-use management and conservation measures that have been implemented and are needed to restore, and maintain the sustainable yield of the regional aquifer by and after September 30, 2011. The Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to Congress not later than December 31, 2004." The BLM Tucson Field Office is developing a strategy to meet the 2004 reporting date and develop subsequent reports.

To accomplish the reporting goals, several key contacts and liaisons have been established including: Tom Dyer, BLM DAD Resources, WO; Al Burch, BLM Arizona State Office; Bill Childress, Manager, San Pedro Riparian NCA; and Mark Anderson of the USGS in Tucson. Other DOI agencies and Fort Huachuca will also have designated representation to provide liaison to their respective agencies.

3. SUBJECT: Implementation Strategy for Las Cienegas Resource Management Plan

ISSUE SUMMARY: The Tucson Field Office staff is drafting the implementation plan for the RMP. In addition to highlighting the decisions made and how these are to be implemented over the next few years, the plan also develops a funding and workload strategy which identifies costs and partnership potential. The decisions and management actions have become identified as tasks ranging from a wetlands fencing project to developing a heritage trail. Detailed costs are defined for 2004 and 2005 but estimated for the future. For each task, partnership efforts are also detailed increasing the potential for effectively competing for cost challenge share and initiate grants.

The Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership continues its active role, now in implementing, fundraising and volunteer projects. More than \$200,000 was contributed by partners to LCNCA in 2004. TFO's other effort is to ensure the tasks are performed in 2004, improving our ability to compete for 2005 funds.

Safford Field Manager Report

1. SUBJECT: Dos Pobres/San Juan Project

ISSUE SUMMARY: The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was published and released for a 60-day public review on December. The BLM is now preparing a Record of Decision (ROD), which is targeted for release in the summer of 2004. Copies of the draft ROD have been sent to Native American tribes and cooperating agencies for comment and review. On March 30, 2004, BLM met with

representatives of Gila River Indian Community and San Carlos Apache Tribe to discuss the draft ROD and solicit input. Meetings and briefings on the draft ROD with BLM and USDI in Washington are scheduled for May 24, 2004. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency are cooperating agencies on the FEIS.

The FEIS analyzes impacts from the proposed mining of leachable copper ore deposits located about eight miles north of Safford, Arizona, and alternatives. The preferred alternative is a land exchange in which Phelps Dodge (PD) acquires title to the selected lands, approximately 16,297 acres of public lands. In exchange, the federal government would acquire title to approximately 3,867 acres of private lands that PD owns. These include Tavasci Marsh adjacent to Tuzigoot National Monument, riparian parcels in the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area, inholdings within the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, and parcels providing access to the Dos Cabezas Wilderness.

2. SUBJECT: Livestock Trespass in Southeastern Arizona

ISSUE SUMMARY: A long-standing livestock trespass case is a step closer to settlement. On May 11, a status hearing was held in U.S. District Court and Luther Wallace Klump agreed to comply with the court's order to remove his livestock. After more than a year in confinement Mr. Klump had his family remove his livestock from the Simmon's Peak allotment and withdrew his second amendment statements. Since he had complied with the court's order he was released from confinement. He agreed to remove the remaining stray cattle over the next two weeks, and the BLM will verify compliance after that time. A settlement hearing will be scheduled in June to resolve the remaining issues.

3. SUBJECT: Continuing Drought

ISSUE SUMMARY: We continue to work with ranchers on management strategies during this ongoing drought. In 2003, public lands received about half the average precipitation in some areas. Ranchers were asked to report actual use and reduce stocking rates or make more intensive management decisions on their livestock operations. Application letters for the 2004 grazing year stressed the ongoing drought conditions and asked for cooperation and reduced stocking rates. Early applications show reduced stocking rates. There is a feeling that some operators may be reluctant to apply for less than permitted numbers, even though they are running reduced herds. The Standards and Guidelines team briefed managers in January and met with a steering committee in February to share results of application statistics, precipitation and summary of drought monitoring results. The goal is to communicate the need to survive through the drought cycles, and have the steering committee help in getting this information to the permittees. On those allotments that show problems, BLM is meeting with ranchers on the ground to share monitoring results and seek solutions, then document conditions and proceed as necessary.

4. SUBJECT: Expansion of Ft. Bowie National Historic Site

ISSUE SUMMARY: An open house was hosted by the National Park Service on March 25 to solicit public input on a proposed 710-acre expansion of Ft. Bowie National Historic Site (NHS). The proposed expansion would transfer 590 acres of public lands managed by the BLM Safford Field Office to the NPS. The proposed expansion is being coordinated with Congressman Jim Kolbe's office, and Kolbe is planning to introduce legislation authorizing the expansion in the near future.

5. SUBJECT: Pilot Academy Held in Safford

ISSUE SUMMARY: The first-ever National Single-Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) Pilot Academy was held at the Safford Field Office's Air Operations Center. The Academy, hosted by the BLM's National Fire

and Aviation Office, provided pilots from as far away as Florida and Wisconsin with training essential for this year's fire season. Sixty pilots attended one of six, three-day courses that consisted of a classroom session and two days flying. Instructors judged the SEAT pilots' knowledge of fire and aviation operations by evaluating their ability to be dispatched to an incident, confirm location, establish communications, work with the Incident Commander to provide retardant support, and work in a complex airspace environment. Safford was selected to host the Academy since it is one of the premier SEAT facilities in the nation.

6. SUBJECT: Gila Box Improvements Continue

ISSUE SUMMARY: Work began on May 17 on the Kearny Camp Road that provides access to Bonita Creek and the east end of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA). The focus of improvements will be the area around Dry Canyon and the Boat Take-out Area along the Gila River, Spring Canyon and steep areas along the road, and access the historic Serna Cabin near the confluence of Bonita Creek and the Gila River. The road improvement project is a joint venture between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Safford Field Office and the City of Safford, with the BLM providing funds for the project. This project is one more way that the BLM is trying to improve access and encourage recreation and visitation to the Gila Box. Roadwork is expected to continue for approximately 90 days.

7. SUBJECT: National River Cleanup Week and Take Pride in America

ISSUE SUMMARY: The Safford Field Office is celebrating National River Cleanup Week in May by co-hosting two projects. Nearly 100 volunteers helped with the first cleanup on May 15 along the Gila River in Safford. Graham County, the Gila Watershed Partnership, City of Safford, and Southeastern Arizona Clean and Beautiful were partners with the BLM on those projects; youth groups such as Boy Scouts and 4H assisted with the cleanup. The second project was held on May 22 along the San Francisco River in Greenlee County upriver from Clifton. The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Clifton Ranger District co-hosted this project. These National River Cleanup Week projects were held in partnership with Take Pride in America and America Outdoors, an association of river guides and outfitters.

8. SUBJECT: OHV Event at Hot Well Dunes

ISSUE SUMMARY: An estimated 2,500 participants and spectators attended a Poker Run and Sand Drag at the BLM's Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area southeast of Safford on April 24. The annual event is held on public lands in the 2000-acre off-highway vehicle (OHV) area through a special recreation permit issued by the Safford Field Office.

Yuma Field Manager Report

1. SUBJECT: Yuma Field Office Land Use Plan

ISSUE SUMMARY: The Yuma Field Office (YFO) Notice of Intent to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on March 30, 2004, and the pre-plan was signed by the Associated State Director on April 30, 2004. Public scoping to identify relevant issues that should be addressed in the planning process has begun and Open House meetings will take place in Yuma, Wellton, Quartzsite, and Blythe the first week of June. The closing date for comments will be June 30, 2004. The revised Yuma RMP will give YFO the opportunity to consolidate three resource management plans and several plan amendments.

*Lake Havasu Manager Report***1. SUBJECT: “Re-Constructed” Take Off Point Launch Site Open**

ISSUE SUMMARY: Since our last report, most construction has been completed at the Take Off Point Launch Site, located at the south end of Lake Havasu near Parker Dam. Construction included a new launch ramp, maintenance yard, and restroom. The restroom utilized an inter-office construction team, with the skills and assistance of staff from the Phoenix and Safford field offices working with the Lake Havasu Field Office crew. The site and facilities will be a busy operation next weekend, as the Memorial Day holiday influx of visitors begins the 2004 summer season.

2. SUBJECT: Draft Resource Management Plan/EIS Expected in September

ISSUE SUMMARY: The Lake Havasu Field Office RMP team has been aggressively tackling the primary chapters with plans and alternatives for the new Lake Havasu RMP. The Draft RMP and EIS, expected to be available for public review in September, will replace four separate and outdated plans now used for the area. The Lake Havasu team was visited by specialists from ASO 930 in early May. Timelines established during the meetings set ASO review of the draft to be completed in July and August.